AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Replacement drawing sheets for Figure 2 and Figure 4 are submitted herewith in order to correct typographical errors. In particular, in the flow charts of both figures, in the step S6 the phrase "DETERMINE HIGH-SPEED RELAY MULTIPLE N" is corrected to properly recite –DETERMINE HIGH-SPEED REPLAY MULTIPLE N—. (Underline only to indicate correction).

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the objections and rejections, and further examination are respectfully requested.

Initially, it is noted that by this amendment, claims 10-20 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter contained therein. Further, claims 1, 2, 5, 21 and 23 have been amended to make a number of editorial revisions thereto. Additionally, claim 21 has been amended so as to be in independent form by including the limitations of claim 10 therein. Thus, claims 1-9 and 21-23 are now pending in the application.

It is also noted that claims 1-9 and 21-23 have been indicated as containing allowable subject matter in items 12 and 13 of page 6 of the Office Action. The Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for this indication of allowable subject matter.

The specification has been carefully reviewed and revised to make grammatical and idiomatic improvements in order to aid the Examiner in further consideration of the application. The amendments to the specification are incorporated in the attached substitute specification. No new matter has been added. Also attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification by the current amendment. The attachment is captioned "Version with Markings to Show Changes Made."

Replacement drawing sheets have been submitted for Figure 2 and Figure 4 to correct typographical errors therein. Entry of these replacement drawings is respectfully requested, and it is respectfully requested that the Examiner indicate approval and entry of these drawings in the next Office Action.

In item 3 on page 2 of the Office Action, the title of the invention was objected to as not being indicative of the invention. The Examiner suggested a title, and the title of the invention has been so amended.

In item 4 of page 2 of the Office Action, the abstract of the disclosure was objected to. The abstract has been amended herein to address the Examiner's concerns. No new matter has been added. Attached hereto are clean and marked-up versions of the amended abstract. The

marked-up version is located in the attachment captioned "<u>Version with Markings to Show</u>

<u>Changes Made</u>."

In item 5 on pages 2-3 of the Office Action, claims 1-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 1 and 10 were specifically rejected as containing indefinite language, and claims 2-9 and 11-23 were rejected as indefinite by virtue of their dependency on claims 1 and 10. The rejection of claims 10-20 is moot in view of their cancellation. Claims 1, 21 and 23 have been amended so as to remove the language deemed to be indefinite. Therefore, it is submitted that the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is no longer applicable.

In items 6-8 on pages 3-5 of the office Action, claims 10-14, 16 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kondo (US 6,388,959). This rejection is moot in view of the cancellation of claims 10-14, 16 and 17.

In items 9-11 on pages 5-6 of the Office Action, claims 15 and 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kondo (US 6,388,959). This rejection is moot in view of the cancellation of claims 15 and 18-20.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is clearly in condition for allowance. An early notice thereof is earnestly solicited.

If, after reviewing this Amendment, the Examiner feels there are any issues remaining which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned by telephone in order to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Satoshi ENDO et al.

Aldo A. D'Ottavio

Registration No. 59,559 Agent for Applicants

AAD/DMO Washington, D.C. 20006-1021 Telephone (202) 721-8200 Facsimile (202) 721-8250 January 16, 2007